

§ 17.148

intermediate products or recovered alcohol.

(d) Any gain in eligible distilled spirits reported in the supporting data shall be reflected by an equivalent deduction from the amount of drawback claimed. Gains shall not be offset by known losses.

§ 17.148 Allowance of claims.

(a) *General.* Except in the case of fraudulent noncompliance, no claim for drawback shall be denied for a failure to comply with either 26 U.S.C. 5131-5134 or the requirements of this part, if the claimant establishes that spirits on which the tax has been paid or determined were in fact used in the manufacture of medicines, medicinal preparations, food products, flavors, flavoring extracts, or perfume, which were unfit for beverage purposes.

(b) *Penalty.* Noncompliance with the requirements of 26 U.S.C. 5131-5134 or of this part subjects the claimant to a civil penalty of \$1,000 for each separate product, reflected in a claim for drawback, to which the noncompliance relates, or the amount claimed for that product, whichever is less, unless the claimant establishes that the noncompliance was due to reasonable cause. Late filing of a claim subjects the claimant to a civil penalty of \$1,000 or the amount of the claim, whichever is less, unless the claimant establishes that the lateness was due to reasonable cause.

(c) *Reasonable cause.* Reasonable cause exists where a claimant establishes it exercised ordinary business care and prudence, and still was unable to comply with the statutory and regulatory requirements. Ignorance of law or regulations, in and of itself, is not reasonable cause. Each case is individually evaluated.

(Sec. 452, Pub. L. 98-369, 98 Stat. 819 (26 U.S.C. 5134(c))

SPIRITS SUBJECT TO DRAWBACK

§ 17.151 Use of distilled spirits.

Distilled spirits are considered to have been used in the manufacture of a product under this part if the spirits are consumed in the manufacture, are incorporated into the product, or are determined by ATF to have been other-

27 CFR Ch. I (4-1-00 Edition)

wise utilized as an essential part of the manufacturing process. However, spirits lost by causes such as spillage, leakage, breakage or theft, and spirits used for purposes such as rinsing or cleaning a system, are not considered to have been used in the manufacture of a product.

§ 17.152 Time of use of spirits.

(a) *General.* Distilled spirits shall be considered used in the manufacture of a product as soon as that product contains all the ingredients called for by its formula.

(b) *Spirits used in an ion exchange column.* Distilled spirits used in recharging an ion exchange column, the operation of which is essential to the production of a product, shall be considered to be used when the spirits are entered into the manufacturing system in accordance with the product's formula.

(c) *Products requiring additional processing or treatment.* Further manipulation of a product, such as aging or filtering, subsequent to the mixing together of all of its ingredients, shall not postpone the time when spirits are considered used, as determined under paragraph (a) of this section. This is true even if at the time of use there has not yet been a final determination of alcoholic content by assay. If, however, it is later found necessary to add more distilled spirits to standardize the product, such added spirits shall be considered as used in the period during which they were added.

(d) *Nonbeverage products used to manufacture other products.* Nonbeverage products may be used to manufacture other nonbeverage (or intermediate) products. However, such subsequent usage of a nonbeverage product shall not affect the time when the distilled spirits contained therein are considered used. When distilled spirits are used in the manufacture of a nonbeverage product, the time of use shall be the point at which that product first contains all of its prescribed ingredients, and such use shall not be determined by the time of any subsequent usage of that product in another product.